

Influenza Situational Summary – week ending January 17, 2015; updated January 20, 2015

Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 1/11/2015 through 1/17/2015 – No increases in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory”-related complaints were observed.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during the week of 1/11/2015 through 1/17/2015 – Sales of over the counter (OTC) medications for treating respiratory symptoms or fever were not above the reporting threshold at the county level.*

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Network - percentage of all outpatient visits due to an influenza-like illness

- *Travis County – for the week ending 1/10/2015: 7.6% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – For the week ending 1/3/2015: 11% (base line is 5.4%); statewide this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/10/2015: 4.4% (base line is 2.0%); this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014. This percentage peaked at 6.1% the week ending December 27, 2014.*

Laboratory surveillance (RT-PCR – real time- polymerase chain reaction)

- *State of Texas – for the week ending 1/10/2015; 20% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a majority (91%) were influenza A viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/10/2015; 20% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (95%) are positive for influenza A viruses*

Institutional Outbreaks

- *One cluster of ill residents in a long-term care facility testing positive for influenza A virus was reported. Three percent of the residents in the facility were ill.*

School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

Influenza-associated mortality

- *There have been 12 deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) among Austin/Travis County residents during the current flu season; 11 of the 12 persons were adults 18 years of age or older. One of the persons was under 18. Eight persons (67%) were 60 years of age or older. The number of influenza-associated deaths reported during the prior five influenza seasons among Austin/Travis County residents ranged from 2 to 22.*

- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/10/2015; 8.5% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 7.0% for this week.*
- *Nationwide, as of January 10, a total of 45 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2014-2015 season. During the 2013-2014 flu season, there were 109 influenza-associated pediatric deaths.*